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2 Session, 22 Legislature

# Annual Report

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## 1987-88

Alberta
LABOUR

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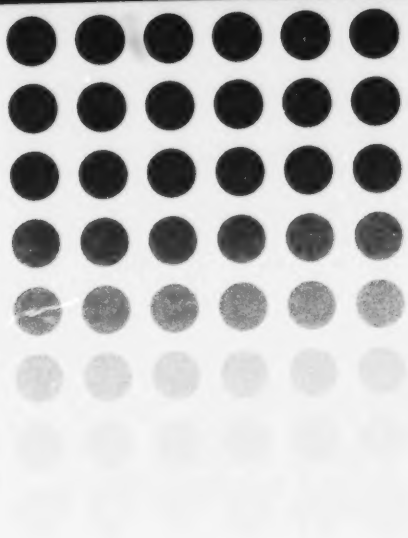

# Annual Report 1987-88

Alberta
LABOUR

Alberta
LABOUR

91-01550/

Office of the Minister

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Also responsible for
LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WOMEN'S ISSUES
PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

March 1990

The Honourable Dr. D. Carter
Speaker
Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the Alberta Department of Labour for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1988.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine McCoy, Q.C.
Minister of Labour

Alberta
LABOUR

Office of the Deputy Minister

10th Floor, 10808-99 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 0G5 403/427-8305

March 1990

The Honourable Elaine McCoy, Q.C.
Minister of Labour
Room 103, Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Ms. McCoy:

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the Alberta Department of Labour for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1988.

Respectfully submitted,

C.S. Mellors

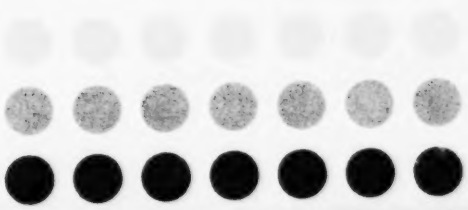
Clint Mellors
Deputy Minister

# Legislation

The following statutes are administered by Alberta Labour:

Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act
Burial of the Dead Act
Department of Labour Act
Electrical Protection Act
Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Act
Employment Pension Plans Act
Employment Standards Code
Fire Prevention Act
Gas Protection Act
Individual's Rights Protection Act*
Industrial Wages Security Act
Labour Relations Code
Plumbing and Drainage Act
Police Officers Collective Bargaining Act
Uniform Building Standards Act

* In accordance with Section 18(1) of the Individual's Rights Protection Act, the Alberta Human Rights Commission submits a separate annual report to the Alberta Legislature.



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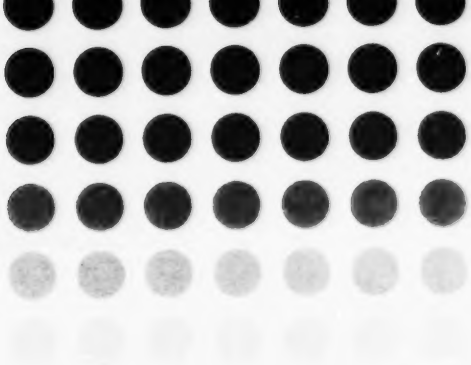


# Introduction

Alberta Labour is concerned with developing harmonious and productive relations between employers and employees, preventing and resolving disputes between employers and unions, administering private pension plans and public safety programs, and administering Alberta's human rights legislation.

The Labour Division provides assistance in preventing and resolving labour disputes, regulates the administration of private pension plans and administers legislation regulating minimum standards of employment.

The General Safety Services Division develops and administers safety standards which pertain to boilers and pressure vessels, elevators and fixed conveyances, gas, plumbing and electrical installations, and building and fire control.

The Support Services Division provides administrative support to the department and administers certain services to the general public.

The Alberta Labour Relations Board is an independent tribunal responsible for interpreting the Labour Relations Code and deciding on complaints and applications arising under the code. The board certifies trade unions and employers' organizations. It supervises strike and lockout votes, and has the power to restrain unlawful strikes, lockouts or picketing. The board, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, is composed of a full-time chairman, three vice-chairmen —two full-time and one part-time — and 20 representative members, 10 from labour and 10 from management.

The Alberta Human Rights Commission is responsible for promoting and safeguarding the spirit and principles embodied in the Individual's Rights Protection Act, Alberta's anti-discrimination legislation. The commission fulfills its mandate through educational and promotional programs, and through investigation and enforcement activities. It is composed of a chairman and six commissioners, all of whom are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The annual report of the commission is tabled separately before the Legislative Assembly.

### *Year In Review*

In 1987-88, following extensive public input and a comprehensive review of the employment standards and labour relations legislation, the Minister of Labour introduced Bill 60, the Labour Code. Meetings with numerous interested groups, both labour and management, were held to ensure any legislative change would be fair and equitable to all Albertans. In anticipation of the new legislation, efforts were directed to keeping the public informed at key stages of development, and to ensuring the department would be prepared for the transition to the new legislation.

In 1988-89, the bill was separated into Bills 21 and 22, which were enacted on November 1 and 28 as the Employment Standards and Labour Relations Codes, respectively.

A Disputes Inquiry Board was appointed in March 1988 to help expedite collective bargaining for the province's unionized construction industry, under the Construction Industry Collective Bargaining Act, which came into force on June 5, 1987. The act was incorporated into the Labour Relations Code in 1988-89.

Considerable effort was made to ensure private sector pension plans in Alberta were amended to comply with the new Employment Pension Plans Act and Regulation, which came into effect January 11, 1987.

In 1987-88, the General Safety Services Division initiated a study to ensure its long-range plans would meet the needs of major clients.

The Electrical Protection Branch was involved in developing national rules in the Canadian Electrical Code, Part One. The code is the adopted safety standard for electrical installations in Alberta. The branch also participated in developing Canadian Standards Association safety standards for electrical equipment. Safety rules for the electrical and communication utility industry in Alberta were extensively revised and adapted to current industry technology.

Defects in the Mindbender roller coaster cars at West Edmonton Mall in Edmonton were corrected and the ride reopened in September 1987. This followed the release of the inquiry report on the Mindbender accident of June 1986, which resulted in three fatalities, one critical injury, and the closing of the ride for an indefinite period.

The Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch adopted the new Plumbing Drainage Act and Regulations, and the new edition of the National Standard of Canada Propane and Natural Gas Installation Codes in 1987-88. The branch administers legislation governing the acceptance, installation, alterations, repair and maintenance of plumbing and gas systems.

The Alberta Human Rights Commission presented the first Alberta Human Rights Award to Darren Lund of Red Deer on December 10, 1987. Mr. Lund spearheads the group S.T.O.P. (Students and Teachers Opposing Prejudice), which has received national attention for its work in promoting a general message of tolerance and fairness towards all individuals. The group is based in Red Deer, at Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School, where Mr. Lund teaches English. The award recognizes Albertans who make outstanding contributions in the area of human rights.

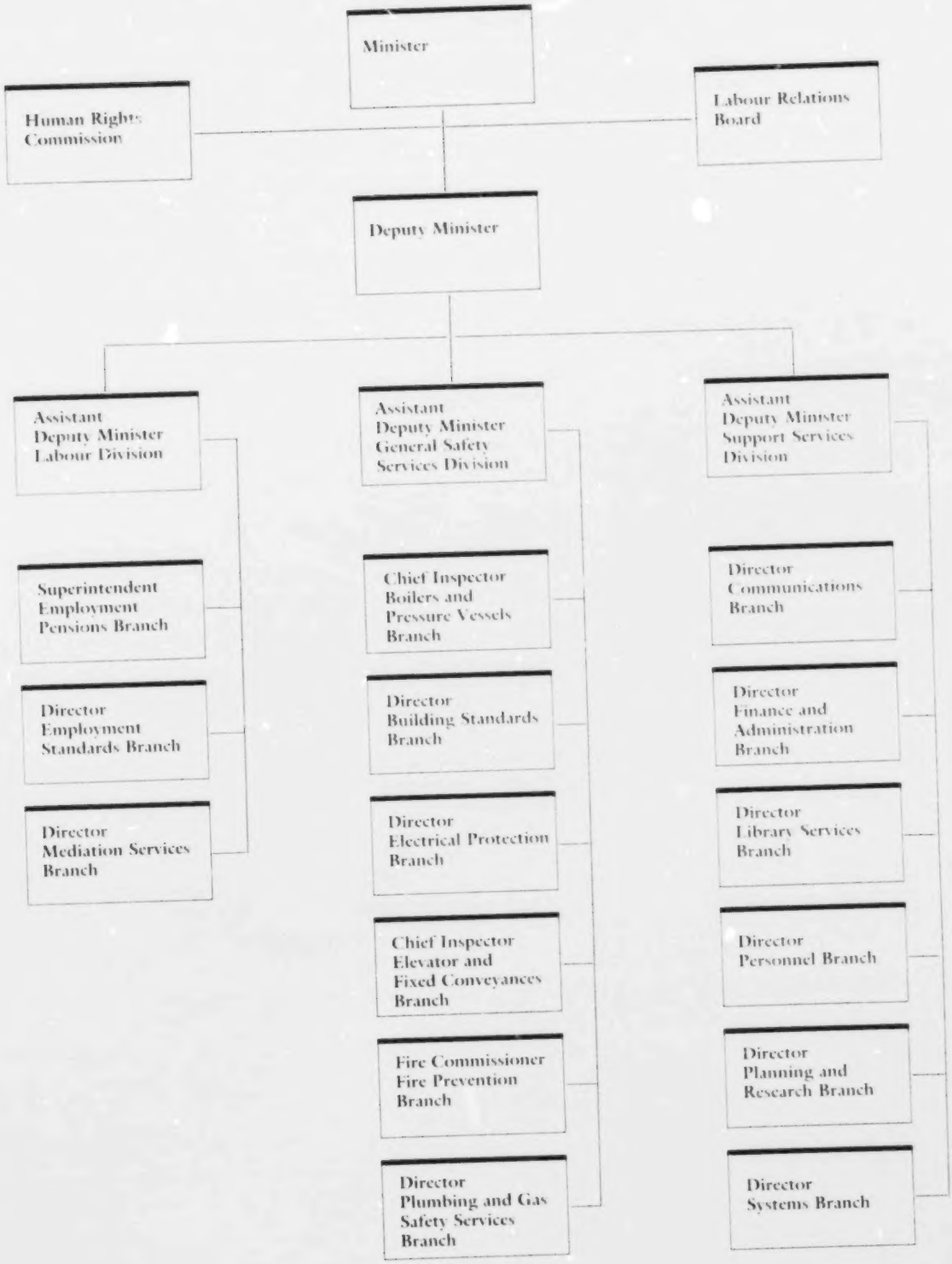
In 1987-88, the financial system of the Personnel Administration Office was converted to the Central Financial System/Departmental Financial System (CFS/DFS). The department helped plan and implement the conversion. Later in the year, the department also planned the implementation of a CFS/DFS ledger for the Professions and Occupations Bureau.

Activities in electronic data processing included the co-ordinating of professional consulting to assist in meeting the objectives of a five-year strategic plan, created in 1986-87. Initial work began on two on-line mainframe database systems, namely, Permits/Inspection/Certification and Accounts Receivable/Invoicing.

***Full financial statements of the department for 1987-88 are in the Public Accounts of the Government of Alberta.***

## *Labour Department*

## *Organization Chart*


Minister
Human Rights Commission
Labour Relations Board
Deputy Minister
Assistant Deputy Minister Labour Division
Assistant Deputy Minister General Safety Services Division
Assistant Deputy Minister Support Services Division
Superintendent Employment Pensions Branch
Director Employment Standards Branch
Director Mediation Services Branch
Chief Inspector Boilers and Pressure Vessels Branch
Director Building Standards Branch
Director Electrical Protection Branch
Chief Inspector Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Branch
Fire Commissioner Fire Prevention Branch
Director Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch
Director Communications Branch
Director Finance and Administration Branch
Director Library Services Branch
Director Personnel Branch
Director Planning and Research Branch
Director Systems Branch

# Labour Division

*The Labour Division provides assistance in preventing and resolving labour disputes, regulates the administration of private pension plans and enforces legislation regulating minimum standards of employment.*

## Employment Pensions Branch

The Employment Pensions Branch is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Employment Pension Plans Act. The main objective of the act is to safeguard employee entitlements to benefits promised under private sector pension plans. Branch staff monitor pension plans to ensure they are administered correctly and that pension plan funds are sufficient to cover earned benefits.

Alberta is a party to two agreements, one with the Government of Canada and the other with those provinces having legislation similar to Alberta's. Both agreements provide for the reciprocal registration, audit, and inspection of pension plans. The branch carries out the duties and responsibilities of other authorities in cases where reciprocal agreements apply.

The branch is also the repository for trust agreements relative to employee benefit plans filed under Section 151 of the Labour Relations Act. Filed trust agreements and amendments are reviewed for possible inadequacies or inconsistencies in the intent and purpose of the agreement.

On March 31, the branch was responsible for the supervision of 1 862 pension plans, including 99 plans which were reviewed and awaiting further documentation before being given approval for registration. During 1987-88, 72 new pension plans received a certificate of registration.

Under the reciprocal agreement provision of the Employment Pension Plans Act, seven plans were transferred to the jurisdiction of Alberta, and four were transferred from Alberta to other jurisdictions. The branch registered 930 amendments to supervised plans.

During the year, 280 plans covering 1 492 employees were discontinued. Of these, 235 plans (covering 455 employees) provided benefits primarily to significant shareholders. Eight plans, covering 408 employees, were discontinued because they merged with other existing pension plans; affected employees had their benefits transferred to the other registered plans. Another 171 discontinued plans were replaced by registered retirement savings plans.

Surplus pension monies amounting to $7.1 million were refunded by trustees of pension plans to employers. The following table outlines the level of surplus refunds over the past five years.

Surplus refunds from pension plans supervised by the Employment Pensions Branch during the fiscal years ending March 31 in 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988 (in millions of dollars)

| | 1984 | | 1985 | | 1986 | | 1987 | | 1988 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. | $ | No. | $ | No. | $ | No. | $ | No. | $ |
| Continuing Plans | 11 | 58.0 | 20 | 10.0 | 25 | 80.0 | 7 | 59.4 | 4 | .9 |
| Discontinued Plans | 13 | .9 | 7 | .7 | 19 | 1.9 | 21 | 5.9 | 27 | 6.2 |
| Total | 24 | 58.9 | 27 | 10.7 | 44 | 81.9 | 28 | 65.3 | 31 | 7.1 |

During the year, the branch responded to a large number of requests for information and advice relating to the Employment Pension Plans Act and Regulation, which came into effect on January 1, 1987. The branch also applied considerable effort to ensure that pension plans were amended to comply with this new legislation.

## Employment Standards Branch

The Employment Standards Branch is responsible for ensuring that employers and employees are aware of their rights and responsibilities in the workplace. The branch's legislative mandate is contained in the Employment Standards Act and the Industrial Wages Security Act.

The programs provided to meet the branch's responsibilities are Dispute Resolution, Compliance, Education, Special Employment, and Standards Development. These programs are administered to ensure that employers, employees, and the public are aware of their rights and responsibilities regarding the regulation of hours of work; the payment of wages, vacation and general holiday pay; the termination of employment; maternity benefits; and the employment of adolescents and young persons.

The varied responsibilities of the branch are carried out through field offices in Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, and St. Paul; the head office is in Edmonton.

The branch's Dispute Resolution/Compliance Program involves the investigation of claims registered by employees who allege that their employers are not complying with the provisions of the Employment Standards Act or Industrial Wages Security Act.

When a dispute arises, an employment standards officer conducts an investigation as a neutral third party and attempts to resolve the dispute without the necessity of lengthy proceedings. When the dispute is resolved, the officer provides the involved parties with information to reduce the possibility of future disputes. If the dispute cannot be resolved, an officer may issue orders, declarations, or determinations which can be appealed by the employer or employee to an umpire. If a complaint cannot be justified, an officer issues a decision denying the claim. The officer's decision can be appealed to the director who conducts a review and either supports the decision or directs that further investigations be done.

Table 2 compares the activity of this program over the past three years. The number of claims filed in 1987-88 dropped slightly from 1986-87. However, there was a substantial increase in funds collected on behalf of employees.

Table 3 provides a summary of the umpire system activity and the disposition of hearings. The resolution of disputes through the umpire system, which has a quasi-judicial function, in most instances precludes a court action and speeds up the settlement process. A total of 415 appeals involving one employer was successfully resolved in this fiscal year. In total employees received more than $50 000 in vacation entitlements as a result of this action.

The education program assists employers, employees, and the public by fostering a general awareness, understanding, and application of the Employment Standards Act and regulations.

Information about the Employment Standards Act, branch programs, and the role and purpose of the branch was communicated through workshops, seminars, and participation at association conferences and trade fairs. Workshops were held regularly in Edmonton and Calgary and in rural districts throughout the province.

The most popular service is the six-hour Payday Survival Workshop. A strong demand for this in-depth workshop necessitated a reduction in other activities.

Education officers were involved in communication planning activities for more than three months in the last fiscal year, resulting in a reduced number of education activities in 1987-88.

Regional offices responded to an average of 1 000 enquiries daily.

The Special Employment Programs Section assisted employers and employees, who, because of their unique situations, required more flexible application of the provisions of the Employment Standards Act.

This allowed employers and employees to enter mutually satisfactory agreements that maintained the principles of Alberta's employment standards legislation.

In fiscal 1987-88, a record number of 117 Compressed Work Week Permits was issued, indicating a demand for extending daily hours of work in return for additional days off.

The Schemes of Employment for Group Homes and Homemakers continued to receive wide acceptance, resulting in a drop in the number of individual Contracts of Employment submitted to the branch for approval.

The information provided in Table 1(b) indicates activities have increased in most Special Employment Programs. This suggests that businesses were utilizing various working condition alternatives to meet both the needs of their employees and the demand for their products and services.

The Industrial Wages Security Act requires employers in the lumber industry to post security to ensure wage protection for their employees. Branch activities stemming from the act include claim registration, investigation and resolution, maintenance of the security account, and education activities for employers and employees.

During fiscal 1987-88, the amount of security held decreased by 9.3 percent which was reflected in a 5.6 percent increase in the number of exemption certificates issued. The number of lumber operators increased in the past year. However, the number of operators receiving exemptions also increased, resulting in less than $1 million being required as security.

The provision of the act requiring the posting of security has been effective in ensuring that workers in the lumbering industry receive their earnings.

The Standards Development Program ensures the Employment Standards Act is consistently applied throughout Alberta.

An important activity of the program was to ensure that Alberta's standards are developed with an awareness of standards in other jurisdictions in Canada. The need for legislative change is identified and initiated by this program.

In the Throne Speech of June 1986, the Government of Alberta made a commitment to fully review provincial labour legislation. A process was then put in place by the Minister of Labour to commence an in-depth review of the legislation.

The Standards Development Program devoted the majority of its resources to completing a comprehensive review of Alberta's employment standards legislation.

Since the first reading of Bill 60, The Labour Code, in June 1987, numerous meetings have been held with interested groups, both labour and management, to ensure that any legislative changes are fair to all Albertans.

## Mediation Services Branch

The Mediation Services Branch deals with mediation of collective bargaining impasses, preventive mediation, and grievance arbitration appointments. Branch staff in Calgary and Edmonton provide third party assistance to labour and management in preventing and resolving labour disputes. They also help establish effective relationships among employees, unions, and employers.

Most public sector contract disputes were settled without any kind of job action. However, one illegal strike lasting 19 days occurred in the health sector. In addition, two legal strikes, lasting a combined total of 48 days, occurred in the school sector.

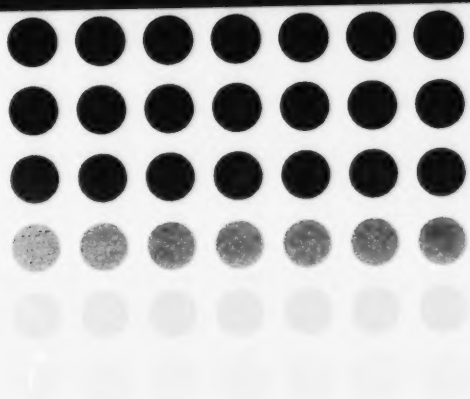
The private sector was more stable than in 1986-87. There was job action in an ongoing forest products dispute as well as in a number of small industrial plant contracts. With the exception of the forest products dispute, all the work stoppages were of short duration.

The emphasis in most contract negotiations during fiscal 1987-88 was on issues of job security, wages, and benefits. In most areas there were slightly higher wage increases than in the previous year, with emphasis on longer term agreements. Specific information is published in Collective Bargaining Scene: Labour Fact Book, available from the Planning and Research Branch.

Preventive mediation programs conducted by the Mediation Services Branch make available to labour and management formal and informal programs and assistance through Labour Management Committees, Joint Training, Grievance Mediation, First Agreement Orientation, and Relationship by Objectives.

Preventive mediation activity increased in almost all areas. Joint training, grievance mediation, and first agreement orientation initiatives increased over 1986-87. Consultive and education activities almost doubled from the previous year.

The branch continued to provide assistance to the Minister of Labour in appointing grievance arbitration board members, chairpersons, and single arbitrators as required by the Labour Relations Act. Appointments in these areas increased to 33 in 1987-88 from 17 in 1986-87. An additional eight requests were successfully concluded without the need for appointments. Whenever possible, 'new' arbitrators were introduced into the system.



# General Safety Services Division

*The objective of the General Safety Services Division is to enhance the safety of life and property through the co-ordinated delivery of programs encouraging and facilitating acceptable safety standards. The areas of responsibility and the programs administered by the division cover a broad range of activities, from the inspection of complex industrial installations to construction in the home. The division's programs involve the development of equipment and installation standards, public safety education, training, inspections, the certification of tradesmen, work permits and certificates, review of plans, investigations and support to municipalities. There are 13 regional offices in the province.*

*In 1987-88, the division initiated a study, to be undertaken by a private consultant, to ensure the division's long-range plans would meet the needs of major clients.*

## Boilers and Pressure Vessels Branch

The primary purpose of this branch is to provide reasonable protection to life and property wherever boilers and pressure vessels are in use. This is achieved by administering the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act in a manner which enables manufacturers, contractors, and owners to fulfill their responsibilities with respect to the safe design, construction, and operation of boilers, pressure vessels, and piping systems. The branch also functions in a manner that fosters the development of the pressure vessel manufacturing industry in Alberta.

Alberta manufacturers have the capabilities to supply a broad range of vessels; the majority of vessels installed in Alberta were built locally. During the year, 6 170 pressure vessels were produced by Alberta manufacturers, including 996 for export. This represented a 34.4 percent increase in the export market over the previous year.

During the reporting period, 6 649 pressure vessel designs were registered, an increase of 21.4 percent from the previous year.

The Pressure Welders Regulations were amended to transfer to the private sector the responsibility of conducting additional welder performance qualification tests and the retesting of pressure welders.

There was a 44 percent rise in the number of organizations with registered quality control systems in place. These systems applied to a wide range of authorizations from permitting construction or repair of pressure vessels and piping systems to the testing of pressure welders.

During the year 50 200 inspections were completed. This resulted in 3 326 potential hazards being averted.

A major concern was the high incidence of cracking found in vessels, particularly those in wet hydrogen sulphide service. Staff were required to place added emphasis on ensuring that the owners had suitable inspection programs in place to identify the defects and to make corrections.

Examinations for power engineers and building operators remained at a high level; 5 582 examinations were conducted.

A total of 35 accidents were investigated by the branch in the past year. Two fatalities resulted from these accidents.

The branch embarked upon an electronic data processing project to further automate its pressure equipment registry program. This initiative will allow for more timely input of pressure equipment data, resulting in a faster and more current data retrieval system to assist inspection staff in work planning and to provide a quicker and more accurate response to inquiries from the public.

## Building Standards Branch

The Building Standards Branch assures reasonable safeguards of life, health, property, and public welfare in (a) the design, construction, or occupancy of new buildings and (b) the alteration, reconstruction, demolition, removal, relocation, or change of occupancy classification of existing buildings.

The branch monitors the standards set out in the Alberta Building Code. It does so largely through authorized municipalities, which administer and enforce the Alberta Building Code. Of the 354 municipalities in Alberta, 305 have requested and received authority to administer and enforce the code within their boundaries. The branch provides to all Alberta municipalities administrative and technical advice on building code requirements, enforcement, and material approval. It also assists small municipalities by reviewing plans for and inspecting more complex projects.

During the reporting period, the branch examined plans for 1 467 building projects worth an estimated $347 million and involving a total floor area of 630 339 square metres.

This is approximately a 12 percent decrease over 1986-87 in the number of projects handled and a 23 percent decrease in total floor area of buildings covered.

Also, during the reporting period there were 84 requests for special product and/or system approvals. After review, 22 approvals and 27 Product Listing bulletins were issued.

The branch develops and distributes bulletins dealing with director's rulings and director's interpretations. It also distributes information bulletins on areas of the code that need further explanation. During the last year, 10 new bulletins were issued and four were revised.

The branch develops and conducts training programs for municipal and provincial inspectors, and gives seminars and workshops for individuals and associations involved in the construction, alteration, and occupancy of buildings. There were 298 inspectors enrolled in branch courses and 666 individual assignments processed and marked during this year.

The branch also provides assistance to the Alberta Building Standards Council. The council hears appeals to building inspectors' orders and is an advisor to the Minister of Labour and the department. The council received 11 appeals during the year.

## Electrical Protection Branch

The objective of the Electrical Protection Branch is to prevent the incidence of electrical accidents and fires in Alberta through the delivery of three broad electrical safety programs, namely, Standards Development, Regulatory Compliance, and Electrical Safety Education.

The branch participates in the development of provincial and national standards which are recommended for adoption in Alberta and are instrumental in providing safe electrical equipment, installations, and work procedures for industry and the general public. Representatives from the many sectors of industry affected also provide input in the development of the standards. During the year, the branch was involved in 10 of the 40 section committees that developed national rules contained in the Canadian Electrical Code, Part 1. This code is the adopted safety standard for electrical installations in Alberta. The branch also participated in the development of Canadian Standards Association (CSA) safety standards for electrical equipment through membership on 30 subcommittees, two technical committees and two standard steering committees. The safety rules for the electrical and communication utility industry in Alberta were extensively revised and adapted to current industry technology.

The Regulatory Compliance Program provides safety services by issuing permits covering electrical installations, certifying master electricians, and inspecting industrial, commercial, institutional, residential, and rural wiring installations.

Additionally, program staff inspect electrical utility generation and distribution systems, review plans and specifications for proposed large and complex electrical installations, and, approve electrical equipment.

Permits for electrical installations are issued to master electricians and to home owners eligible to install their own wiring. As shown on Table 6, the number of permits issued increased by six percent. Plan review decreased by 36 percent, indicating a slight increase in overall construction activities but a considerable decrease in the number of larger electrical installations.

Consistent with a quality assurance concept, a certification program for master electricians assures that only competent persons are eligible to obtain permits to do electrical contracting for the public. The total number of master electrician certificates issued or revalidated increased by 21 percent from the previous year. The number of persons who wrote the master electrician exams decreased 21 percent.

Electrical equipment approvals are designed to identify and prevent the manufacture and distribution of unsafe electrical equipment. When electrical equipment is manufactured or assembled in Alberta, industry may apply for the equipment approval service provided by the branch. This service helps Alberta manufacturers of electrical equipment to establish market viability in Alberta before entering a certification agreement with CSA to enable widespread marketing outside the province. The inspection and approval of other non-CSA certified electrical equipment was transferred to CSA during the year. This resulted in a decrease of 30 percent of the activities in the approval area from the previous year.

The branch conducted a public safety awareness program which included investigating and documenting electrical accidents and fires suspected of having had electrical origin. Educational seminars and meetings are held regularly for the electrical industry for the purpose of improving uniformity in the application of safety standards. The 15th edition of the Canadian Electrical Code, Part 1, was adopted during the year. As a result, code seminar activities increased.

The branch issued approximately 13 500 quarterly technical and safety information bulletins to persons representing various segments of the electrical industry in Alberta.

As shown in Table 6, there were seven fatalities due to electric shock during the year, an increase of two from the previous fiscal year. Injury-related electrical accidents investigated by the branch decreased by 13 percent from 83 to 72. The number of investigations of fires believed to be of electrical origin decreased by 25 percent from 94 to 69.

## Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Branch

Programs administered by the Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Branch are intended to provide a reasonable level of safety in the construction and operation of vertical, horizontal, and inclined transportation systems within buildings and recreational areas. These programs include the development and adoption of national and provincial standards for elevators and related devices, passenger ropeways (ski lifts, for example), and amusement rides. Compliance with such standards is achieved through plan reviews, inspection of new and existing installations, and accident investigations.

During the reporting period, 5 810 existing installations were inspected for safety. Safety inspections and tests were conducted on 289 new installations. Drawings and specifications were reviewed for 195 new installations, followed by 303 preliminary inspections during construction to help engineers, architects, and contractors meet standards. A total of 17 accidents were investigated by branch staff.

## Fire Prevention Branch

The Fire Prevention Branch promotes fire protection in Alberta through a number of programs. These include the prevention of fires through public education, fire safety monitoring, advisory services, and the collection and dissemination of fire loss data. Training in all aspects of protection, including fire prevention and suppression, is made available by the branch to municipal and industrial fire departments. A major training facility, the Alberta Fire Training School, is located at Vermilion, Alberta. The branch also helps to enforce laws related to the suppression of arson.

Branch staff conducted 2 930 inspections during the year, nine less than in the previous year. The number of hazards identified during these inspections resulted in 9 608 recommendations being issued to correct them, a decrease of 6.4 percent compared to 1986-87. It was also necessary for branch staff to issue 23 orders to owners or occupants of the properties inspected, 24 fewer than the previous year.

The Fire Prevention Council is a quasi-judicial body of 11 persons appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council from a broad range of private sector organizations with fire safety interests. The council advises the Minister of Labour on fire prevention matters and hears appeals on orders issued by branch inspectors or by the municipal fire department personnel authorized as local assistants to the fire commissioner.

During the year, the council heard 22 appeals on orders: 16 of these orders were upheld, three were varied by the council, and three were revoked. The council, under the authority vested in it by Section 4 of the Alberta Fire Code, may waive compliance with the code or approve alternate fire protection measures. Of the 11 applications under Section 4, five were approved.

A total of 1 170 fire investigations were conducted by branch staff, police, and fire departments, an increase of five percent over the previous year; 379 of these investigations were conducted by branch staff. The number of fires determined to be caused by arson rose by 3.6 percent to 856. This increase indicates the need to continue the effort to determine accurately the cause of all fires and to expose cases of arson, insurance fraud, and other crimes.

On-site municipal course attendance at Alberta Fire Training School (AFTS) increased marginally as did regional course attendance, while attendance at locally presented courses declined slightly. A total of 1 520 man weeks of municipal training, four percent less than in 1986-87, were delivered in 1987-88. Those who underwent industrial training also declined to 464 from 477 participants, a drop of 2.8 percent. However, attendance at AFTS seminars rose 27.2 percent.

## Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch

The Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch assists individuals and plumbing and gas industries in Alberta to maintain a safe environment for the public with respect to plumbing installations, sewage disposal systems, and the distribution and use of natural and propane gases, including the conversion of highway vehicles from regular or unleaded to propane and natural gas motor fuels. The branch administers the Plumbing and Drainage Act, the Gas Protection Act, and regulations governing the acceptance, installation, alteration, repair, and maintenance of plumbing and gas systems. In 198?-88 the branch adopted new plumbing and drainage act regulations, and the new editions of the National Standard of Canada Propane and Natural Gas Installation Codes.

In 198?-88, the branch continued to work closely with national testing laboratories and the plumbing and gas industries in developing and improving equipment standards, installation requirements, and safety procedures. The objective is to keep abreast of rapid technological changes.

During the year, 504 contractors received certificates allowing them to obtain permits; a total of 2?,4?1 permits covering plumbing, natural gas, and propane installations were issued to qualified plumbers, gasfitters, and homeowners.

The branch carried out 36,386 monitoring type inspections on plumbing and gas systems in new and existing buildings. It conducted 9? training and safety seminars while continuing to provide a consulting service to both industry and the public. In addition, the branch continued to administer an approval program for the testing of unique equipment for which it is impractical or unfeasible for the applicant to obtain certification from a national laboratory, such as the Canadian Standards Association.

In 198?-88, the government introduced its Early Retirement Incentive Program. Four management staff and 11 field staff took advantage of the program. Included in that group of managers was Jack Mercer, who had been director of the Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch and formerly the Gas Protection Branch for 30 years.

# Support Services Division

*The Support Services Division provides administrative advice and support in the areas of finance, systems, planning and research, library services, communications, personnel, and financial advisory services. The latter two functions were added to the division as a result of organizational adjustments.*

*The responsibilities of this division were increased during the reporting period to include providing service to the Personnel Administration Office and the Professions and Occupations Bureau. Other client groups of this division include the Department of Labour, the Labour Relations Board, and the Human Rights Commission. Certain information services are also provided to the general public.*

## Communications

The Communications Branch worked closely with senior departmental managers to develop and implement public awareness programs of the policies, programs and services of Alberta Labour, the Alberta Human Rights Commission, the Alberta Labour Relations Board, the Alberta Personnel Administration Office, and the Professions and Occupations Bureau. The branch provided services in writing and editing, preparing speeches, media relations, advertising, printing, graphic design, audio-visuals and photography.

In the reporting period, the branch published information material such as *Labour News* and issued news releases on Bill 60, the proposed labour legislation covering employment standards and labour relations.

The branch handled media enquiries and arranged media interviews for departmental spokesmen, largely on the proposed labour legislation.

A daily newsclipping service was provided, and the branch continued to give advice and analysis of media trends and public concerns.

The branch also continued to assist in promoting Fire Prevention Week and fire prevention generally. It continued to publish the quarterly *Alberta Human Rights Journal*, *Fire News*, and the staff newsletters *Currents* and *A Personnel View* for Labour and the Personnel Administration Office, respectively.

## Finance and Administration Branch

The Finance and Administration Branch provides financial and administrative support and control to the department. It provides a range of accounting and administrative services, develops and implements administrative policy and procedures, and ensures that departmental financial systems are adequate.

The branch's Finance Section processes transactions and maintains records in support of accounts payable and receivable as well as the central fund accounts. The Administration Section plans and co-ordinates the acquisition, maintenance, and renovation of space and related facilities. It acquires supplies and services needed to deliver departmental programs.

In 1987-88, the branch adapted the nature and scope of its operations and services to reflect the merger of the administrative units of the Personnel Administration Office with the department, and also extended support to the Professions and Occupations Bureau.

During 1987-88, several program adjustments were made necessary by ongoing down-sizing and the administrative merger with the Personnel Administration Office. Among these were the transfer of budget and financial planning responsibilities to executive management, the phasing out of a central supplies function that had been maintained in the Personnel Administration Office, and the full decentralization of the invoice certification and approval function.

Although the department had been previously converted to the Central Financial System/Departmental Financial System (CFS/DFS), extensive efforts were required to plan and implement the Personnel Administration Office conversion to CFS/DFS and, later on, to plan the setup of the Professions and Occupations Bureau on its own CFS/DFS ledger.

Financial Advisory Services provides financial management services to the department. The branch delivers consultative services to management through the development of budgetary systems and assists the managers, through the provisions of forecasting systems, to ensure effective control.

The branch is also responsible for contract administration services to the department and ensures the required objectives and specifications are incorporated.

## Library Services Branch

The Library Services Branch provides the materials and assistance required to meet the department's research and information needs. It also supports the educational activities of the department. It serves external clients, including other government departments, libraries, research agencies, labour groups, employers, human rights agencies, students and academics, members of the legal profession, and the general public.

In July 1987, the collection of the Resource Centre at the Public Administration Office was merged with the collection of the main library, and the Library Services Branch assumed the responsibility for providing materials and information services to PAO.

In February 1988, the branch gained access to REFCATSS, an on-line bibliographic utility, used for inter-library loans, reference, cataloguing, and collection development.

Within the Reference Services Section, requests for information are received in person, by mail, by telephone, or as part of an on-going S.D.I. (Selective Dissemination of Information) program. During 1987-88, 2 344 requests for information were answered, 700 inter-library loan requests were processed, and 5 993 documents were loaned.

The branch has fully developed its database of library holdings; over 12 000 records are now on the system.

The Audio-Visual Section received 1 760 requests and circulated 1 581 films and videotapes to schools, colleges, hospitals, fire departments, daycare centres, and companies throughout the province.

During the fiscal period, there were 206 subscribers to the Alberta Labour Relations Precedents Index Series. An on-line index for the Grievance Arbitration Awards Index and Labour Relations Board Index has been developed and made available to the public.

## Personnel Branch

The Personnel Branch provides consultation and assistance to program managers in support of their human resource activities and initiatives. The branch administers a province-wide personnel program for the department through the functions of pay and benefits administration, employee relations, recruitment and selection, classification, staff development and training, organization development, human resource planning, performance appraisals, occupational health and safety, and wage and salary administration.

The activities of the Personnel Branch were affected considerably by the Early Retirement Incentive Program, down-sizing, and salary reviews resulting from negotiated settlements and approved management pay increases. In addition, branch services were extended to include the Professions and Occupations Bureau.

There were 73 recruitment actions completed during the course of the year. A total of 27 positions were abolished as part of the down-sizing exercise brought on by budget reductions. Of the six employees in encumbered positions, four were redeployed to other positions either within this department or another government department. One employee waived his rights. The other employee was on maternity leave. The branch also reviewed and processed 145 classification transactions.

Employee relations also played a significant role in branch activities. The branch worked in close consultation with the Labour Relations Section of the Personnel Administration Office and with individual departmental program managers to deal with several serious employee relations issues. Two of the more difficult cases have proceeded to adjudication.

Staff development activities focused on developing and delivering workshops to increase employee motivation and productivity in a number of branches.

## Planning and Research Branch

The Planning and Research Branch is responsible for policy analysis, planning support, survey research, and the development, analysis, and distribution of statistics for the department and the labour community. The branch represents the department on interdepartmental and federal-provincial committees related to the above functions.

The Statistics and Information Services Unit analyzed and processed 716 newly negotiated collective agreements. Surveys were conducted regarding wage settlements, union membership, and wage comparisons. The major publications published during the year included the *Collective Bargaining Scene* (quarterly), *Membership in Labour Organizations 1986*, and *Negotiated Working Conditions in Alberta Collective Agreements*. The unit received information requests from the public and undertook special projects.

A major review of the services, systems, and organization of the Statistics and Information Unit was initiated to consider departmental and public needs for bargaining information. Increased accessibility and speed of service are the main objectives.

Current issues of interest to the department were reviewed and analyzed by the Policy and Planning Services Unit. Several major projects were undertaken in support of the development of changes to employment standards and labour relations legislation. The unit prepared reports and co-ordinated the Alberta responses to meet the province's obligations under various International Labour Office and United Nations conventions.

## Systems Branch

The Systems Branch co-ordinates and provides departmental services in office automation and specialized office functions.

The branch develops, co-ordinates, and controls all activities relating to the annual departmental data processing plan. Additionally, it assists in acquiring cost-effective word and data processing hardware and software. It designs, develops and implements approved automated data processing systems and maintains existing systems. It provides appropriate pickup and delivery of incoming and outgoing mail, and administers a departmental records management program along with a complementary micrographics operation. Finally, it co-ordinates the efficient, cost-effective centralized photocopying operation for the department.

In keeping with the departmental five-year strategic data processing plan created in 1986-87, the branch co-ordinated the efforts of a professional consulting firm in defining and developing an on-line mainframe database system to support the registry and inspection of pressure vessel equipment.

In preparation for year two of the plan, the branch co-ordinated the development and release of a 'Request for Proposal' to acquire the services of a professional consulting firm. The firm will begin the requirements definition and design alternatives for two on-line mainframe database systems, namely, Permits/Inspection/Certification and Accounts Receivable/Invoicing.

# Alberta Labour Relations Board

***The Labour Relations Board is a tribunal which administers the provisions of the Labour Relations Act. It grants and revokes trade union certifications, provides a forum for resolving disputes over the meaning of the act, and adjudicates complaints of unfair labour practices.***

The board consists of a chairman, three vice-chairmen —two full-time and one part-time — and 20 part-time members, representing in equal numbers, labour and management. All members are full-time practitioners of labour relations and are drawn from various sectors of the economy.

The board has offices in Calgary and Edmonton, and holds hearings throughout the province.

The board is a quasi-judicial body, combining administrative and judicial functions. It avoids being overly technical in making its determinations and strives to keep its hearings informal and expeditious. Wherever possible, settlement of disputes is encouraged through the use of experienced labour relations officers.

The board has exclusive authority to carry out its duties under the act and to decide all questions of fact or law that come before it. The board's decisions are not subject to appeal, and judicial review is limited. It has the power to reconsider any of its own decisions and to determine its own practice and procedure.

Board policies are established by the full board sitting in caucus. Six caucuses are held each year. Individual cases are decided by three-person or five-person panels of the board. Emergency hearings are held on short notice to ensure a quick resolution of industrial disputes.

The board publishes its decisions monthly in *Alberta Labour Relations Board Reports*. The reports also contain details of all motions for judicial review arising from the published decisions. In 1987-88, the board issued 67 written decisions. Of those, 17 were challenged in court, seven of which remain outstanding, nine were upheld, and one was set aside.

Board policies are made known to affected parties and the public in a number of ways. The 30-page *Guide to the Labour Relations Act* describes, in layperson's language, the provisions of the act and the policies and procedures of the board. The guide also offers answers to frequently asked questions. The board also published a series of more specialized information bulletins. In addition, the board published *Rules of Procedure Respecting Board-Supervised Strike and Lockout Votes*.

The board received 193 certification and 17 decertification applications last year, similar to the numbers received in 1986-87.

Unfair labour practice complaints decreased to 224 from the 266 reviewed in 1986-87.

During the year the Minister of Labour introduced Bill 60, the Labour Code. This proposed legislation, which followed extensive public hearings, will affect the board's operations in a number of ways. In anticipation of this legislation, the board had initiated a review of its system and procedures with particular emphasis on the opportunities for office automation.

The board's adjudicative role in construction industry disputes was modified by the June 1987 passage of the Construction Industry Collective Bargaining Act. This law gave rise to a number of applications before the board concerning its interpretation. In the end, disputes concerning construction registration under the Labour Relations Act decreased.

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9 *Plumbing and Gas Safety Services*
three-year statistical comparison

* For full financial statements of departmental activities in 1987-88 please refer to the Public Accounts of the Government of Alberta.

# 1 Employment Standards Branch

## (a) Investigation and Recovery Proceedings

Statistical summary: three-year comparison

| | 1985-1986 | 1986-87 | 1987-88 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Field Investigations* | 9 713 | 9 187 | 8 272 |
| Money collected through field investigations | $2 430 974 | $2 031 088 | $2 470 625 |

## (b) Special Employment Programs

Statistical summary: two-year comparison

| | 1986-1987 | 1987-88 |
|---|---|---|
| Oil well servicing and trucking (pay plans) | 25 | 31 |
| Overtime agreements | 69 | 117 |
| Extended hours of work | 10 | 10 |
| Contracts of employment | 342 | 137 |
| *Scheme of Employment* | | |
| Group Homes | 26 | 28 |
| Homemakers | 2 | 5 |
| *Total* | 474 | 328 |

## (c) Educational Services Program

Statistical summary: two-year comparison

| | Numbers Held | | Attendance | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Type of Activity | 1986-87 | 1987-88 | 1986-87 | 1987-88 |
| Workshop on Wages (Payday Survival) | 93 | 108 | 2 446 | 2 490 |
| World of Work (high school) | 29 | 8 | 1 080 | 134 |
| Speaking engagement | 64 | 36 | 1 402 | 1 112 |
| Other – trade shows | 5 | 3 | 2 700 | 2 400 |
| *Total* | 191 | 155 | 7 628 | 6 136 |

## (d) Umpire System Activity Report

Two-year comparison

| | 1985-1986 | 1986-87 | 1987-88 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of appeals | 1 083 | 947 | 516 |
| Appeals from previous year | 86 | 30 | 529 |
| *Total* | 1 169 | 977 | 1 045 |
| *Disposition* | | | |
| Confirmed | 246 | 183 | 591 |
| Varied | 65 | 59 | 61 |
| Revoked | 40 | 38 | 42 |
| Abandoned | 42 | 98 | 143 |
| Appeals denied | 235 | 67 | 57 |
| Decision reserved | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Appeal not yet heard | 538 | 532 | 151 |
| *Total* | 1 169 | 977 | 1 045 |

## (e) Industrial Wages Security Act

Statistical summary: three-year comparison

| | 1985-1986 | 1986-87 | 1987-88 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Money collected under the Act* | $31 768.00 | $108 306.44 | $99 017.69 |
| Employees benefiting in lumber industry | 351 | 528 | 346 |
| *Amount of security held at year end* | | | |
| Lumber industry | $1 782 790.19 | $1 107 990.49 | $988 855.87 |
| *Active exemption certificates* | | | |
| Lumber industry | 34 | 65 | 79 |

## 2 Mediation Services Branch

Statistical summary, two-year comparison

| | 1986-1987 | 1987-88 |
|---|---|---|
| *Mediation* | | |
| Disputes pending to April 1, 1987 | 42 | * 28 |
| (*Construction disputes excluded) | | |
| Mediators appointed | 119 | 113 |
| Disposition of Disputes | | |
| Settled at Mediation | 93 | 76 |
| Sent to voluntary arbitration | 1 | 0 |
| Sent to arbitration under Police Officers Collective Bargaining Act | 2 | 0 |
| Compulsory Arbitration Boards (Sec. 117) | 4 | ** 5 |
| Disputes pending at March 31, 1988 | 40 | 45 |
| ** (only 2 Boards were used) | | |
| *Strikes and Lockouts* | | |
| Strikes | 7 | 11 |
| Lockouts | 11 | 2 |
| Strike-lockout (simultaneous) | 3 | 2 |
| *Preventive Mediation* | | |
| *(April 1, 1987 to March 31, 1988)* | | |
| First Agreement Orientation | 48 | 51 |
| Grievance Mediation | 47 | 50 |
| Labour Management Committees | 9 | 3 |
| Joint Training | 7 | 11 |
| Relationship By Objectives | 0 | 0 |
| Consultation, Education | 12 | 22 |

## 3 General Safety Services Division

Selected statistics; three-year comparison

| | 1985-1986 | 1986-87 | 1987-88 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Inspections carried out | 167 199 | 152 573 | 137 570 |
| Work permits and work certificates issued | 93 212 | 82 081 | 80 129 |
| Workers certified | 13 293 | 10 534 | 11 054 |
| Investigations conducted | 608 | 677 | 617 |
| Examinations given | 14 476 | 12 287 | 9 613 |
| Plans examined | 26 026 | 21 483 | 17 375 |
| Meetings and seminars conducted | 11 562 | 10 958 | 9 624 |

# 4 Boilers and Pressure Vessels Branch

Comparative Statistical Summary
For the three years ending March 31, 1986, 1987 and 1988

| | 1985-1986 | 1986-87 | 1987-88 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Designs processed* | | | |
| Designs submitted | 7 661 | 5 478 | 6 649 |
| Designs accepted | 5 364 | 3 932 | 4 261 |
| Designs rejected | 218 | 150 | 365 |
| Designs revised | 1 819 | 1 311 | 1 528 |
| *Quality control systems registered* | | | |
| Certificates issued and renewals | 92 | 89 | 151 |
| Companies with registered quality control systems | 277 | 275 | 396 |
| *Inspections carried out* | | | |
| High pressure boilers | 1 928 | 1 703 | 1 717 |
| Low pressure boilers | 4 351 | 4 478 | 5 611 |
| Receivers | 6 667 | 6 122 | 5 327 |
| Heat exchangers | 3 200 | 2 702 | 2 261 |
| Process vessels | 10 507 | 7 244 | 7 582 |
| Miscellaneous | 1 267 | 222 | 559 |
| Progress inspections | 28 175 | 23 738 | 29 343 |
| *Total* | 56 095 | 46 209 | 50 200 |
| *Boilers and pressure vessels constructed in Alberta* | 7 867 | 5 164 | 5 975 |
| *Potential hazards found in service inspections* | | | |
| Safety valve insufficient capacity or inoperable | 1 289 | 1 648 | 935 |
| Low water fuel cut-off inoperable | 175 | 215 | 125 |
| Free air inlet inadequate | 11 | 54 | 5 |
| Heating surface of boiler heavily scaled | 255 | 372 | 276 |
| Severe corrosion requiring repairs | 981 | 1 271 | 1 367 |
| Miscellaneous unsafe conditions | 793 | 724 | 451 |
| Defective boiler and pressure vessel operating - limit controls | 42 | 106 | 49 |
| Boiler water gauge glass inoperable | 8 | 13 | 28 |
| Accessories requiring repair | 156 | 82 | 81 |
| Condemned or ordered out of service | 3 | 8 | 9 |
| *Total* | 3 713 | 4 493 | 3 326 |
| *Examinations conducted* | | | |
| Engineers and building operators | 5 817 | 5 876 | 5 536 |
| Pressure welders | 6 092 | 5 732 | 3 573 |
| Examinations passed | | | |
| Engineers and building operators | 4 803 | 5 031 | 4 617 |
| Pressure welders | 5 411 | 5 161 | 3 189 |
| *Accidents investigated* | | | |
| Accidents | 73 | 45 | 35 |
| Injuries | 24 | 16 | 2 |
| Fatalities | 1 | 2 | 2 |

# 5 Building Standards Branch

Statistical summary: three-year comparison

| | 1985-1986 | 1986-87 | 1987-88 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Building plans examined | 1 462 | 1 777 | 1 467 |
| Floor area ($m^2$) | 792 440 | 866 137 | 630 339 |
| Estimated value | $436 000 000 | $476 000 000 | $347 000 000 |
| Inspections (general and mechanical) | 5 838 | 4 934 | 4 346 |

## *General Statistics*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Building plans examined* | | | |
| Assembly | 350 | 355 | 263 |
| Institutional | 31 | 50 | 20 |
| Residential | | | |
| General | 76 | 166 | 117 |
| Single family | 173 | 182 | 210 |
| Business and personal services | 84 | 100 | 130 |
| Mercantile | 78 | 116 | 86 |
| Industrial | 269 | 262 | 213 |
| *Total* | 1 061 | 1 231 | 1 039 |
| *Floor area ($m^2$)* | | | |
| Assembly | 282 554 | 250 446 | 179 562 |
| Institutional | 78 918 | 92 501 | 48 217 |
| Residential | | | |
| General | 107 482 | 183 285 | 127 967 |
| Single family | 33 674 | 45 407 | 36 175 |
| Business and personal services | 49 185 | 41 832 | 34 929 |
| Mercantile | 47 537 | 90 105 | 44 608 |
| Industrial | 193 090 | 162 561 | 158 881 |
| *Total* | 792 440 | 866 137 | 630 339 |
| *Estimated value* | $436 000 000 | $476 000 000 | $347 000 000 |
| *Inspections carried out* | 4 881 | 2 929 | 2 541 |

| | 1985-1986 | 1986-87 | 1987-88 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Mechanical Statistics** | | | |
| *Building plans examined* | | | |
| Assembly | 155 | 237 | 174 |
| Institutional | 20 | 29 | 16 |
| Residential | | | |
| General | 37 | 43 | 32 |
| Single family | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| Business and personal services | 45 | 62 | 45 |
| Mercantile | 32 | 56 | 54 |
| Industrial | 106 | 116 | 91 |
| *Total* | 401 | 546 | 420 |
| *Floor area ($m^2$)* | | | |
| Assembly | 153 231 | 211 649 | 144 265 |
| Institutional | 72 189 | 83 222 | 37 763 |
| Residential | | | |
| General | 42 065 | 119 948 | 32 011 |
| Single family | 2 412 | 749 | 2 826 |
| Business and personal services | 66 243 | 25 342 | 32 255 |
| Mercantile | 23 942 | 40 545 | 77 981 |
| Industrial | 122 221 | 118 139 | 117 304 |
| *Total* | 482 303 | 599 594 | 444 405 |
| *Inspections carried out* | 957 | 2 005 | 1 805 |
| **Technical Program Statistics** | | | |
| *Training and education programs* | | | |
| Students enrolled in courses | 106 | 213 | 298 |
| Assignments marked | 739 | 957 | 666 |
| Examinations taken | 51 | 57 | 26 |
| Seminars/workshops given | 44 | 18 | 19 |
| *Appeals to Alberta Building Standards Council* | | | |
| Appeals received | 21 | 21 | 11 |
| Orders confirmed | 6 | 12 | 4 |
| Orders revoked | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| Orders varied | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Appeals withdrawn | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| *Products and systems approvals* | | | |
| Total number of requests | 91 | 78 | 84 |
| Approvals issued | 48 | 12 | 22 |
| Product listing bulletins | 25 | 27 | 27 |
| Standata Bulletins (New) | | | 10 |
| Standata Bulletins (Revised) | | | 4 |

# 6 Electrical Protection Branch

Statistical summary; three-year comparison

| | 1985-1986 | 1986-87 | 1987-88 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Electrical permits issued* | 30 613 | 27 782 | 29 356 |
| *Plans and Specifications Reviewed* | 16 094 | 13 221 | 8 414 |
| *Inspections conducted* | | | |
| Covered by permits | 30 134 | 29 877 | 24 496 |
| Not covered by permits | 2 689 | 2 488 | 1 909 |
| Electrical equipment approvals | 13 062 | 13 196 | 9 285 |
| Electrical utility installations | 3 220 | 3 387 | 2 208 |
| *Total inspections conducted* | 49 105 | 48 948 | 37 898 |
| *Master electrician certification* | | | |
| Master electrician certificates issued | 2 645 | 2 451 | 2 744 |
| Master examinations written | 499 | 567 | 447 |
| *Accident and fire investigations* | | | |
| Fatal accidents | 7 | 5 | 7 |
| Non-fatal accidents | 82 | 83 | 72 |
| Fires | 61 | 94 | 69 |
| *Seminar activities* | 262 | 154 | 284 |
| *Meetings* | 1 347 | 1 164 | 1 126 |
| *Technical interviews* | 82 304 | 79 936 | 69 462 |

## 7 Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Branch

Statistical summary; three-year comparison

| | 1985-1986 | 1986-87 | 1987-88 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Inspections carried out* | | | |
| Elevators and related equipment | 5 448 | 5 199 | 3 740 |
| Passenger ropeways and related equipment | 174 | 149 | 138 |
| Amusement rides | 456 | 293 | 384 |
| Elevators (for Canada Labour) | 124 | 102 | 69 |
| Reinspections: all classes | 1 264 | 1 372 | 1 129 |
| Preliminary inspections: all classes | 456 | 259 | 303 |
| Special inspections: all classes | 32 | 23 | 47 |
| *Total* | 7 934 | 7 397 | 5 810 |
| *New installations* | | | |
| Elevators and related equipment | 215 | 150 | 283 |
| Passenger ropeways | 10 | 6 | 4 |
| Amusement rides | 15 | 1 | 2 |
| *Total* | 240 | 157 | 289 |
| Accident investigations conducted | 4 | 14 | 17 |
| Number of inspections invoiced | 6 087 | 5 350 | 3 781 |
| Drawings examined | 172 | 214 | 195 |

# 8 Fire Prevention Branch

Statistical summary; three-year comparison

| | 1985-1986 | 1986-87 | 1987-88 |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Fire Prevention*** | | | |
| Building fire inspections conducted | 2 641 | 2 939 | 2 930 |
| Recommendations to correct hazards issued | 8 793 | 10 261 | 9 608 |
| Orders issued | 13 | 47 | 23 |
| Plans examined | 282 | 208 | 237 |
| Meetings and lectures conducted | 1 588 | 1 626 | 1 307 |
| Attendance | 19 056 | 20 390 | 3 978 |
| ***Fire Investigation*** | | | |
| Investigations conducted by branch | 319 | 378 | 379 |
| Investigations by other agencies | 657 | 735 | 791 |
| *Total* | 976 | 1 113 | 1 170 |
| *Causes of fires investigated* | | | |
| Arson | 642 | 826 | 856 |
| Accidental or unknown | 326 | 283 | 310 |
| Under investigation | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| *Total* | 976 | 1 113 | 1 170 |
| ***Fire Service Personnel Training*** | | | |
| *Alberta Fire Training School municipal training programs (duration 44 hours)* | | | |
| Part I Firefighter | 154 | 130 | 132 |
| Part II Firefighter | 125 | 98 | 96 |
| Part III Firefighter | 43 | 40 | 43 |
| Part IV Firefighter | 37 | 31 | 32 |
| Part V Firefighter | 40 | 34 | 31 |
| Part VI Firefighter | 20 | 21 | 21 |
| Pump Operator "A" | 111 | 90 | 88 |
| Pump Operator "B" | 22 | 29 | 21 |
| Fire Prevention for the Firefighter | 18 | 20 | 15 |
| Vehicle Extrication and Trench Rescue | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Dangerous Goods Incident Control | — | — | ** 31 |
| Trench Rescue | — | — | ** 13 |
| Fire Officer C1 Building Construction | 20 | 16 | 12 |
| Fire Officer C2 Leadership | 20 | 17 | 12 |
| Fire Officer C3 Pre-emergency Planning | 18 | 10 | 11 |
| Fire Officer C4 Fire Suppression and Safety | 17 | 11 | 12 |
| Fire Officer C5 Strategy and Tactics (Theory) | 18 | 39 | 34 |
| Fire Officer C6 Strategy and Tactics (Practical) | 12 | 13 | 10 |
| Fire Officer C7 Fire Investigation | 20 | 18 | 20 |
| Fire Officer C8 Fire Prevention Fire Protection Equipment | 14 | 8 | 9 |
| Fire Officer C9 Fire Prevention Inspection and Public Education | 17 | 11 | 7 |
| Fire Officer C10 Human Relations and Management | — | — | ** 17 |
| Fire Officer C12 Technical Writing Skills | — | * 32 | 13 |
| Fire Officer C15 Public Relations and Public Speaking | — | * 32 | 13 |

| | 1985-1986 | 1986-87 | 1987-88 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fire Inspector DA | 18 | 17 | 24 |
| Building Codes and Standards | 19 | 21 | 20 |
| Fire Inspector DB Alberta Fire Code | 8 | 10 | 5 |
| Fire Inspector D1 Water Supply | | | |
| Fire Inspector D2 | 11 | 10 | 14 |
| Standpipe Sprinkler Systems | | | |
| Fire Services Instructor E1 | 20 | 24 | 31 |
| Fire Services Instructor E2 | 13 | 12 | 19 |
| Fire Services Instructor E3 | — | * 9 | 10 |
| *Total Municipal Fire Department Personnel (AFTS)* | 835 | 823 | 836 |
| *Alberta Fire Training School Extension Courses municipal presentation (duration 44 hours)* | | | |
| Part I Firefighter | 266 | 319 | 287 |
| Part II Firefighter | 48 | 104 | 102 |
| Pump Operator "A" | 5 | 42 | 13 |
| Fire Prevention for the Firefighter | 24 | 32 | 59 |
| Vehicle Extrication | — | — | ** 25 |
| Fire Officer C2 Leadership | — | 44 | 19 |
| Fire Officer C3 Pre-emergency Planning | — | — | 14 |
| Fire Officer C5 Strategy and Tactics (Theory) | — | 19 | — |
| Fire Officer C7 Investigation | 20 | 93 | 72 |
| Fire Officer C8 Fire Protection Equipment | — | — | 22 |
| Fire Officer C9 Fire Prevention | 23 | 9 | — |
| Fire Officer C12 Technical Writing Skills | — | 32 | 12 |
| Fire Officer C15 Public Relations and Public Speaking | — | — | 36 |
| *Total municipal fire department personnel attending AFTS-sponsored extension and local courses* | 541 | 765 | 684 |
| *Total Municipal Fire Department Personnel* | 1 376 | 1 588 | 1 520 |
| *Industrial programs (duration as indicated)* | | | |
| Part I Industrial Firefighter (16 h) | 195 | 138 | 100 |
| Part I-A Industrial Firefighter (8 h) | 149 | 104 | 123 |
| Part I-B Industrial Firefighter (16 h) | 23 | 58 | 85 |
| Part II Industrial Firefighter (16 h) | 140 | 104 | 81 |
| Part III Industrial Firefighter (16 h) | 89 | 62 | 75 |
| Aircraft Crash/Fire Response (Dry Chemical) | — | 11 | — |
| *Total Industrial Fire Department Personnel* | 596 | 477 | 464 |
| *Total attendance* | 1 972 | 2 065 | 1 984 |
| AFTS municipal and industrial programs | 43 | 45 | 84 |
| One-day Seminars | — | 21 | — |
| Two-day Seminars | | | |

* These courses were offered for the first time in 1986-87.
** These courses were offered for the first time in 1987-88.

# 9 Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch

Statistical summary: three-year comparison

| | 1985-1986 | 1986-87 | 1987-88 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Plumbing and gas permits issued* | | | |
| Plumbing permits | 4 743 | 5 276 | 5 161 |
| Private sewage disposal permits | 2 234 | 1 775 | 2 122 |
| *Subtotal: Plumbing permits* | 6 977 | 7 051 | 7 283 |
| Natural gas permits | 19 569 | 16 613 | 16 147 |
| Propane gas permits | 4 787 | 4 370 | 4 041 |
| *Subtotal: Gas permits* | 24 356 | 20 983 | 20 188 |
| *Total plumbing and gas permits issued* | 31 333 | 28 034 | 27 471 |
| *Field inspections* | | | |
| Plumbing inspections covered by permits | 10 805 | 10 228 | 9 170 |
| Plumbing inspections not covered by permits | 4 346 | 4 234 | 2 905 |
| *Subtotal: Plumbing inspections* | 15 151 | 14 462 | 12 075 |
| Gas installation covered by permits | 26 394 | 23 182 | 19 731 |
| Gas installations not covered by permits | 3 674 | 3 863 | 4 083 |
| Approval of domestic/commercial gas appliances | 288 | 389 | 294 |
| Approval of industrial gas equipment | 282 | 250 | 72 |
| Approval of gas equipment operational tests | — | — | 131 |
| *Subtotal: Gas inspections* | 30 638 | 27 684 | 24 311 |
| *Total plumbing and gas inspections* | 45 789 | 42 146 | 36 386 |
| *Workers' certificates issued* | | | |
| Gasfitter certificates | 395 | 619 | 479 |
| Sewage system contractors' certificates | 38 | 66 | 25 |
| *Total* | 433 | 685 | 504 |
| *Seminar activities* | | | |
| Tradesmen seminars | 168 | 103 | 97 |
| Meetings | 161 | 130 | 153 |
| *Total* | 329 | 233 | 250 |
| *Examinations given* | 42 | 56 | 31 |
| *Plans examined* | 756 | 670 | 413 |
| *Accident investigations* | | | |
| Accidents reported | 62 | 58 | 38 |
| Accidents investigated | 62 | 58 | 38 |
| Fatal accidents | 4 | 6 | 1 |
| Injury accidents | 31 | 9 | 13 |